From the INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

MARPOSS SOCIETA PER AZIONI Via Saliceto 13 I-40010 Bentivoglio BO ITALIE

RICEVUTO

- 5 LUG. 2004

TSD.....

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY **EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

02.07.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/05740

BRE/356

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International filing date (day/month/year) 02.06.2003

12.06.2002

Applicant

MARPOSS SOCIETÀ PER AZIONI

- 1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
- 2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
- 3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Micheli, M

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

International application No.		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)				
		International filing date (day) 02.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 12.06.2002			
Internation B24B49		both national classification and II	IPC			
Applicant MARPO	SS SOCIETÀ PER AZIOI	NI				
1. This	s international preliminary ex hority and is transmitted to th	amination report has been pre ne applicant according to Artic	repared by this International Preliminary Examining cle 36.			
2. This	REPORT consists of a tota	l of 5 sheets, including this co	over sheet.			
Ø	been amended and are the	anied by ANNEXES, i.e. shee b basis for this report and/or shon 607 of the Administrative Ir	ets of the description, claims and/or drawings which is the containing rectifications made before this Authorstructions under the PCT)	have hority		
The	se annexes consist of a tota					
3. This	report contains indications r	elating to the following items:				
H	☐ Priority					
Ш	•	opinion with regard to novelty	ty, inventive step and industrial applicability			
IV	☐ Lack of unity of inven		y, inventive step and industrial applicability			
V	☑ Reasoned statement		gard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicabil	lity;		
VI	☐ Certain documents ci					
VII	☐ Certain defects in the	international application				
VIII	☐ Certain observations	on the international application	on.			
ate of sub	mission of the demand	Date	e of completion of this report			
8.01.200	04	02.0	07.2004			
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European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016			nultz, T			
			phone No. +31 70 340-4559	- AND		

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/05740

l.	Ba	sis	of	the	re	port
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1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):

	De	escription, Pages	
	3-1	16	as originally filed
	1, 2	2	received on 01.06.2004 with letter of 28.05.2004
	Cla	aims, Numbers	
	5-1		and a single-control of the single-control o
	1-4	· -	as originally filed
	1-4	•	received on 01.06.2004 with letter of 28.05.2004
	Dra	awings, Sheets	
	1/5	-5/5	as originally filed
2.	. Wit lan	h regard to the lang guage in which the ir	uage, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the sternational application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
	The	ese elements were av	vailable or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:
		the language of a tr	anslation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
			olication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
		the language of a tr Rule 55.2 and/or 55	anslation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under .3).
3.	With inte	h regard to any nucl e rnational preliminary	eotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
		contained in the inte	ernational application in written form.
		filed together with th	e international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subseque	ntly to this Authority in written form.
		furnished subseque	ntly to this Authority in computer readable form.
		The statement that t in the international a	he subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure application as filed has been furnished.
		The statement that t listing has been furn	he information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence ished.
١.	The	amendments have r	esulted in the cancellation of:
		the description,	pages:
•		the claims,	Nos.:
		the drawings,	sheets:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

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5. ⊔	This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
	(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1-12

1-12

1-12

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims

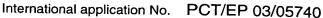
No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet



EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-1 118 833 (MARPOSS APP ELETT) 25 July 2001 (2001-07-25)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter 2. of independent claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document) an apparatus for checking dimensional and geometric features of a pin with a Vee-shaped reference device (20), a gauging device (17), a support device(5) and a control device (28, 30).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known apparatus in that when the apparatus is in a working condition, substantially translation displacements of the Vee-shaped reference device are enabled and a first parallelogram structure includes at least one pair of mechanical abutments for holding mutual contact in said working condition and for remaining mutually separate in a rest position of the apparatus.

The subject-matter of independent claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as keeping the angular arrangement of the instantaneous point of contact of the feeler with the surface of the workpiece to be checked independently of variations in the configuration of the support device. It may further be regarded as defining a distance separating two adjacent axes of rotation of the first parallelogram structure thereby defining a minimum value of angles between the intermediate element and the coupling element and providing an additional support in the working condition of the apparatus.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: The problem of a constant angular arrangement of the feeler with the surface of the workpiece as stated above is not addressed in the cited prior art D1. _D1_discloses_further a disengagement between the_abutment_surfaces_depending on the postion of the rotating workpiece to be checked. D1 does not therefore



International application No. PCT/EP 03/05740

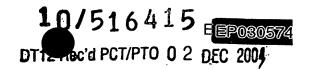
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

suggest to keep the abutment surfaces in mutual contact in the working conditon. Thus, the subject-matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step, Art. 33(3)PCT.

Claims 2-12 are dependent claims and are therefore also novel and inventive. 3.







DESCRIPTION

«APPARATUS FOR CHECKING THE DIMENSIONAL AND GEOMETRIC FEATURES OF PINS»

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to an apparatus for checking dimensional and geometric features of a pin, rotating about a geometric axis of rotation, with a Vee-shaped reference 10 device that defines rest and reference surfaces adapted for cooperating with the pin to be checked, a gauging device, coupled to the Vee-shaped reference device and including a feeler adapted for contacting the surface of the pin to be checked and for performing linear displacements along a 15 measurement direction lying between the rest and reference surfaces of the Vee-shaped reference device, a support device for supporting the Vee-shaped reference device and the gauging device, with a stationary support element and a coupling mechanism, between the stationary support element 20 and the Vee-shaped reference device, and a control device for enabling the apparatus to displace in an automatic way from a rest position to the working condition, and vice versa.

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Background Art

Apparatuses for the crankpin diameter checking of a crankshaft rotating with orbital motion about a geometric axis in the course of the machining in a grinding machine are disclosed in international patent application published with No. WO-A-9712724, filed by the same applicant of the present patent application.

More specifically, according to the embodiments shown and described in the previously detailed international patent application, the apparatuses have Vee-shaped reference devices that rest on the crankpin to be checked and







maintain correct cooperation with the surface of the crankpin substantially by virtue of the force of gravity. in the formerly disclosed embodiments excellent application quarantee patent international metrological results and small forces of inertia and the standards of performance of the apparatuses with these characteristics, manufactured by the applicant of present patent application, confirm the remarkable quality and reliability of the applications.

10 Furthermore, these known apparatuses can be utilized for carrying out roundness checkings of the cylindrical surfaces of the pins, while the crankshaft is assembled and rotating on the grinding machine.

International patent application published with No. WO-A-0166306, also filed by the same applicant of the present 15 patent application, relates to an apparatus and a method for checking the roundness of crankpins in orbital rotation international This machine. grinding application discloses the detecting of diameter dimensions of the crankpin, at predetermined angular positions during 20 by means of a gauging head crankshaft rotation, including a feeler and Vee-shaped reference surfaces that a transducer that the piece and rest





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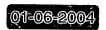
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CLAIMS

- 1. An apparatus for checking dimensional and geometric features of a pin (42), rotating about a geometric axis of rotation (8), with
- a Vee-shaped reference device (70) that defines rest and reference surfaces adapted for cooperating with the pin (42) to be checked,
- gauging device (61),coupled to the Vee-shaped reference device (70) and including 10 a feeler (67)adapted for contacting the surface of the pin (42) to be checked and for performing linear displacements along a measurement direction (D) lying between said rest and reference surfaces of the Vee-shaped reference device 15 (70),
 - a support device for supporting the Vee-shaped reference (70)and the gauging device (61), with stationary support element (5) and a coupling mechanism, between the stationary support element (5) and the Veeshaped reference device (70), adapted for enabling, when the apparatus is in a working condition, substantially translation displacements of the Vee-shaped reference with respect to the stationary support device (70) element (5), the coupling mechanism including
- a first section (40) coupled to the stationary support element (5),
 - an intermediate element (12) coupled to the first section (40), and
- a second section (41) coupled to the intermediate
 element (12) and carrying the Vee-shaped reference device (70) and the gauging device (61),

at least one of said first and second sections including, in said working condition, a first substantially parallelogram structure (40) with four fulcra (6,10,13,17)

that define as many axes of rotation (7,11,14,18) parallel to said geometric axis of rotation (8) and coupling and limiting elements (9,32) adapted for defining and setting a





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distance separating adjacent axes of rotation (7,11,14,18), said first substantially parallelogram structure (40) including at least one pair of mechanical abutments (38,16) adapted for holding mutual contact in said working condition for defining and setting the distance separating two adjacent axes of rotation (14,18), and for remaining mutually separate in said rest position of the apparatus, and

- a control device (80-83) for enabling the apparatus to displace in an automatic way from a rest position to said working condition, and vice versa.
- The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first substantially parallelogram structure (40) includes an additional pair of mechanical abutments (39,20) adapted for holding mutual contact in said working condition.
- apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said 3. coupling and limiting elements include at least an elongate coupling element (9) defined between two adjacent fulcra 20 (6,10) and a stem (32) arranged - in said working condition - between the other two fulcra (13,17), the stem (32) being coupled to said elongate element (9) and arranged, in an axially movable way along substantially a direction parallel to said elongate element (9), the ends (38,39) of 25 said stem (32) and elements (15,19) integral with said other two fulcra (13,17) defining the mechanical abutments (38,16;39,20) of said at least one and additional pairs.
- 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said elements integral with said other two fulcra (13,17) are bearings (15,19) with associated external cylindrical surfaces (16,20) that define mechanical abutments of said at least one and additional pairs.



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